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EXHIBIT 1

DATE 2/9/2011

HB 394

February 9, 2011

Representative Elsie Arntzen
Chair, Business and Labor Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Montana State Capitol, Room 172
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: HB 394

Madam Chair, Members of the House Business and Labor Committee:

I am unable to be here today because I have a prior commitment in Portland, Oregon. I am offering my written testimony in support of HB 394, in anticipation that it will be as persuasive as appearing personally.

In a nutshell, HB 394 is a bill to correct an amendment I offered in 2005 to HB 628. Let me explain. Prior to 2005, Montana private alternative adolescent residential and outdoor programs were unregulated and unlicensed. There was a lot of controversy surrounding these "schools" and programs, with claims of institutionalized child abuse. Several were shut down and there were lawsuits; the most notorious incident involved the suffocating death of a fourteen-year old boy, Martin Lee Anderson, at the hands of "boot camp" guards, which was caught on film.

During the 2005 Montana Legislative Session, Rep. Paul Clark (D-Trout Creek), who also runs a teen program, introduced House Bill 628 for the registration and board requirements for private alternative adolescent residential and outdoor programs. This bill was first heard in the House Education Committee, of which I was a member. At the request of my constituent, Bob Larsson and Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch, I offered an amendment for a religious exemption. Had I been aware of what was happening at Pinehaven, I would not have offered this amendment.

Ultimately the bill became law as Section 37-48-102, Montana Code Annotated. In 2007, the Montana Legislature passed a law requiring, among other things, the licensure of these programs; and there is a State Board in place. http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd_boards/pap_board/board_page.asp

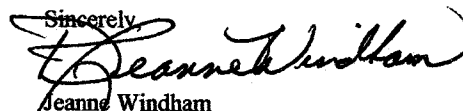
Unfortunately, the religious exemption was not removed; and Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch in St. Ignatius, Montana, remains unlicensed and unregulated. They have not and do not employ Montana licensed and credential teachers, nor licensed or credentialed mental health professionals. In 2005, James Barnes, a teacher at Pinehaven, was convicted of sexual intercourse without consent with two teenage girls at Pinehaven. Since that time, there have been and now are many allegations from former "students" and staff of sexual abuse (e.g., between house parents and children, and between children), physical abuse, mental abuse and emotional abuse. I am attaching statements from former staff to give you an idea of what is before us. Unfortunately, because it is a small community, there is a reluctance by law enforcement to get involved.

Moreover, Pinehaven is promoting its program in Indiana and Illinois, and some southern states. There have been and currently are court ordered out-of-state children at Pinehaven, unbeknownst to the State of Montana. Most recently, three out-of-state children ran away from Pinehaven in May, 2010 and they returned to their homes in Illinois.

I have spoken with John Strandell, Chief of the Investigations Bureau for the Montana Department of Justice. He is looking into these matters. But, as you are aware, the wheels of justice turn slowly.

In the meantime, the Montana Legislature can do something to insure the health, safety and well-being of children whose voices are currently unheard. HB 394 would affect exactly one unlicensed and unregulated "residential" program in Montana and protect many children now and in the future. If you have any questions for me, or need more information, I am available telephonically. I respectfully urge you to vote do pass on HB 394. Thank you for your time and consideration of this very serious matter.

Sincerely,


Jeanne Windham
Former MT State Representative (HD 12)

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(http://fnweb.mt.gov/idmws/custom/BSDMTG/BSDMTG_FN_Home.asp?BoardCode=y) including agendas and minutes from past meetings, a section on frequently asked questions and any news items from the Board.

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Montana Code Annotated 2009

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37-48-101. Purpose. The purpose of the board is to license and regulate private alternative adolescent residential or outdoor programs as a public service to monitor and maintain a high standard of care and to ensure the safety and well-being of the adolescents and parents using the programs. Necessary licensure processes and safety standards for programs are best developed and monitored by the professionals that are actively engaged in providing private alternative adolescent residential care.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 178, L. 2007.

Provided by Montana Legislative Services

Montana Code Annotated 2009

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37-48-103. Registration and licensing requirements -- fees. (1) The board shall develop and adopt rules and set fees for mandatory registration and licensing programs. Each program is required to provide policies of insurance in a form and in an adequate amount as determined by board rule.

(2) The board shall require the following information to be provided for licensing. The information includes but is not limited to:

- (a) a description of the program and facility;
 - (b) a description of the goals and objectives of the program for program participants;
 - (c) a description of the population served by the program, including the maximum number of program participants to be served and the gender of program participants;
 - (d) the location and contact information for each program, including the person responsible for the conduct of the program;
 - (e) a list of professional and supervisory employees and relevant credentials and other qualifications;
 - (f) the average daily census;
 - (g) a copy of program policies and procedures on:
 - (i) admission;
 - (ii) behavior management;
 - (iii) communication with family members;
 - (iv) the availability of routine and emergency medical and psychological care;
 - (v) medication management;
 - (h) any information that the board may require to facilitate a fingerprint and background check by the department of justice and the federal bureau of investigation of a manager or a worker affiliated with the program who has direct access to program participants, including information pertaining to criminal convictions; and
 - (i) any other related information specified by the board by rule.
- (3) The board shall issue licenses upon receipt of the appropriate fees and a finding that the information provided in subsection (2) is satisfactory. The board shall make available to the public information on the name, address, and contact information for each licensed program.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 294, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 178, L. 2007.

Provided by Montana Legislative Services

Montana Code Annotated 2009

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37-48-106. Licensure. (1) A program must be licensed by the board.

(2) The board may issue a license that is valid for a period of between 1 year and 3 years or may issue a provisional license as provided in [37-48-107](#).

(3) A license is valid only for the program for which it is issued and may not be sold, assigned, or transferred without the approval of the board.

(4) The board may suspend or revoke a license if the board, upon a hearing, as provided in [37-1-131](#), determines that the program is not operated in a manner consistent with the rules adopted and is not in substantial compliance with the program's plan of operation.

(5) The board may approve a modification of the program's plan of operation. A program may not deviate from its plan of operation without the prior approval of the board.

(6) A license terminates and the holder of the program license shall return the license to the department if:

(a) program operations are discontinued;

(b) ownership of the program is transferred without approval of the board;

(c) the board suspends or revokes the license; or

(d) the license expires without being renewed.

(7) The program license must be displayed in a conspicuous place near the admitting office of the program.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 2007.

Provided by Montana Legislative Services

Statement of Lynnette McClenahan

I was the Administrative Assistant to the Director, Andy Larsson, at Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch from June of 2003 to June of 2007. Prior to this I had also been a summer intern at Pinehaven from May to August of 2002. Although I was the "administrative assistant", I was also the person who did a lot of catch-all jobs and projects. This included but was not limited to Substitute Teacher, Substitute House mom, Babysitter, Hall Monitor, Camp Counselor, Church Secretary, Communicator with Parents, Churches and Individuals, and whatever else was needed. I was usually more than happy to help out in whatever area I was needed and really enjoyed this because I got to "Deal with ALL the kids but never had to DEAL with all the kids." I made it my mission to try to give every kid a hug during sometime of the day whether they were going to or from school or even in the classroom.

There were times that I was instructed not to pay attention to certain children because they were "grounded" and "didn't deserve to be recognized." In this case, I would usually seek out the child in a different place and let them know that I knew they could do better and try to provide encouragement. When I left at the end of school in 2007, it was because of several reasons that I didn't feel comfortable sharing before but do now because I know in the end I will stand before God and be guilty of the children that were not helped because of my silence.

Because of the position I had I was in I knew about almost everything that happened at Pinehaven that would be considered any kind of serious offense. While at Pinehaven, I maintained strict confidentiality but I will no longer be silent about the abuse and information I know that has happened towards many of the children at Pinehaven.

Administration

Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch is a family run operation that has existed since 1976. Bob and Nancy Larsson are the founders and are very involved with all ranch operations. Andy Larsson was the director and has recently left in January of 2010. Jon Larsson is the Principal of the school and has since taken over Andy's place as co-director.

While under the supervision of Andy Larsson, he began to develop a friendship with a woman who he had shared interests with. He told me that this woman was his "best friend" and when I said that his wife Carol needed to be his best friend he responded that Carol and he didn't really see eye to eye on many things and that it really wasn't any of my business and that I didn't understand because I wasn't married. I also saw where Andy sent emails to this woman with suggestive titles like, "I'll show you mine if you show me yours." When I told Andy that I was resigning and brought up that I believed he was playing with fire with this woman he completely dismissed it. This is the woman that he had a three year affair with until she threatened to bring all of the information into the public eye and he confessed to his wife, parents and the rest of the Pinehaven staff.

I was also astonished with way that funds were so easily spent by Andy Larsson. Pinehaven paid for most if not all of his expensive cameras, computers and other "toys" that he had. I would often go for entire weeks of not seeing Andy at the Pinehaven office because he was off doing other things in

Missoula (possibly this infidelity), hunting or doing anything else. Andy was never at the ranch and Bob was at the ranch even less than that. They were very much out of touch with the pulse of the ranch and were only updated by Maxine Kent. Also during the four years that I worked at Pinehaven all of the Larsson's took their annual trip to Hawaii and Andy had recently gone on hunting trips to Canada and Alaska for moose and on an African Safari. These to me would seem to be trips of a lifetime but Andy took a trip like this about every other year.

There were several times I brought up issues to Andy that I discovered about what house parents had done that I considered to be abusive things to the children in their house, unsanitary living situations and blatant lying of house parents. There were times that he responded well and other times that he was noncommittal about serious issues that I believed needed to be addressed.

Physical Abuse

One of these instances was when Ashley Melanson, a pregnant teen, came to the ranch and was instructed on how to clean a bathroom floor with Administration yelling at her and a support staff using her as a tool and moving her hand while she lay prostrate on the floor. Later that week, Ashley was also taken out to shovel manure at the Bull Pen and because she would not do it one of the staff went back and forth with her holding her short handled shovel and pushing her back and forth between the manure pile and the honey wagon. Andy instructed me that, "What happens in elk camp – stays in elk camp." By this he meant don't tell anyone about what you've seen.

I also saw the fresh wound of Justin Dawber's nose from when houseparent, Ned Kent, pushed him down the stairs because he wasn't doing what Ned wanted. When I asked Justin what happened he told me that he was instructed by his house parents not to tell anyone about it, but then one of his house brothers told me the situation. When I told Andy about this he did not seem shocked at all, but shortly after that Justin went to see the doctor and was informed that he had a broken nose.

There were also many children that I saw required to do unending hours of backbreaking work without rest or hydration. I saw frostbite on the toes and hands of several kids who were required to shovel manure at below freezing temperatures with inadequate clothing. These are only a few of the cruel stories I saw played out over my years at Pinehaven.

Medical Abuse

From the time that children went to Pinehaven they were not to have any of their medication that they had been on before such as anti-depressants, ADHD medication or any other types of medication that work with personality and mental issues. There was also little medical care unless parents would provide the money for regular dental and eye examinations. There were twins at Pinehaven that had not had dental cleanings in the six years that I was aware of their time at Pinehaven. I do not know about that since I have left.

I also saw open wounds on students that were uncared for by their house parents. One of the most atrocious times was when one of the girls from the Green House under Esther Kemery was handling fresh meat in the meat-cutting room with open sores on her hands.

I was also disgusted when I heard about a house mom who would not allow her girls to wear tampons in the pool because she believed that girls could get some kind of sexual pleasure from a tampon. Instead she would have those girls wear a maxi-pad in the pool in their bathing suit. This is very unsanitary, unknowledgeable and disgusting. When I told Andy about that he said, "She's doing that again?"

Sexual Abuse

The most well known case happened in May of 2004, Pinehaven Teacher, James (Jimmy) Stanley Barnes was accused of having a relationship with two of the girls in his care. The relationships had begun almost a year previous to this at Kootenai Christian Camp, where Jim was a counselor. The girls were 14 and 15 when it began and was going on until all of the allegations came out. Jim was convicted and spent several years in prison as a result. These two girls are still suffering from many of the dysfunctional problems they faced both before and after the abuse was discovered.

During 2006, it was also discovered that a housemother, Angie Price, had been having an ongoing affair with one of the boys in her house. This had been going on for close to a year and was dealt with by the authorities. Because the boy was considered a "consenting adult" level (17) the Pinehaven administration did not report this relationship. Angie Price and her family, had already decided to leave and did so immediately. Because the age gap between Angie and this boy was about eleven years and she was his caretaker there should have been charges pressed. The Pinehaven Staff was instructed not to discuss this with anyone if asked.

I could give many stories about molestation rapes that happened between students at Pinehaven. The most difficult one happened when a 6'4" 225 lb student who was 16 was mounting another boy in his wing that was about 5' and 95 lbs and was about 12. The older boy was dismissed but no charges were ever pressed against him. There was/is a lot of homosexual activity in both the boys and girls wings at Pinehaven. Much of this happens because there is no normal contact between sexes and if there is any attraction that is discovered by staff then those students are "grounded" from the opposite sex.

Verbal Abuse

There were many times I heard Ned Kent tell the girls in his care how fat, ugly and dumb they were. I also heard him tell several children that they would never amount to anything so why would they even try to work hard. He reiterated they would most likely spend their lives out in a jail cell and were only wasting his time and the rest of the staff.

I also remember one time during round-up when pictures were being taken and a particularly heavy girl was riding by in front of Andy Larsson and his camera. He said to her, "Hey, you are squishing that horse!" She started welling up tears in her eyes and the other people in the area were too shocked to say anything.

These types of comments often happened and children were publically berated in front of the peers so that everyone knew what was going on.

Counseling

There was no formal counseling at Pinehaven. If a situation arose the house parents were told to have a child write out all that had happened and then completely forget about it. Children were never able to talk about the molestation or abuse that had happened in their past or about any other feelings they were having. This is one reason why I believe that more sexual abuse happens than is reported.

At Pinehaven, we dealt with diagnosed problems such as Dyslexia, Attachment Disorder, Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder, Bi-Polar students and many other diagnoses. None of these issues were ever dealt with by a counselor at Pinehaven. The children had no one to talk to if they were victims of abuse.

I am told that Pinehaven has now hired a counselor in Danny Larsson (the Director's grandson) who has a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies but very little if any education in counseling and no experience in any of these areas.

House parents and staff were not given any training on how to deal with situations that might arise except to tell Maxine about it and to tell the kids not to talk to anyone else about their problems.

Control of the Staff

I saw this happen many times to both myself and others but when I saw it most was when the staff gathered together on Monday mornings.

In a staff meeting towards the end of February of 2007, I raised my hand and asked when we would be receiving our tax forms and what type they would be. We had previously been given nothing one year, a W-2 form the next and a 1040 form the year after that. I said that I knew legally we were supposed to have them by January 31 and was inquiring when we would be receiving them. I wanted to know because I needed to get my information sent to my accountant. I was publically berated in front of my colleagues by Andy Larsson stating that there was no such law they would get those forms to us whenever they got around to it. I got up and left the meeting because of the humility that was given to me.

What I have since discovered is that the very foundational way that Pinehaven is supposedly set up as a non-profit organization is wrong. They also do not supply detailed accounts of the ways that funds are spent.

Elders/Board of Directors

I know that the majority of the problems at Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch stem from the fact that there are no elders at the church aside from the Larsson Family and one other man who rubberstamps everything addressed the same way that the Larsson's view is. The elders at the church

also form the Board of Directors at Pinehaven. Within the past few months, they have included Chuck Willet, a previous law-enforcement official and three more area ministers: Dave Humphries, Chuck Houk and Mike Johnston. One of those minister, Mike Johnston, has stated that he expects to be asked to step down because of his belief in the fact that some of the former Pinehaven students stories are be true and told them to report them to the Lake Country Authorities. I wonder how many more will be asked to leave the inner-circle if they rock the boat.

As is typical of the Larsson Family fashion it is either their way or the highway. The Larsson's have done everything but tell some of the local Christian Churches (Sandpoint, ID, Libby, Kalispell and Bigfork) not to participate in the camp program at Kootenai. Because of this none of those area churches are willing to work with Pinehaven, First Christian Church or the Larsson's again.

This information is true to the best of my knowledge – Lynnette McClenahan (10/21/10)

Cade and Angie Price were house parents for about six years at Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch. They were both in their late 20's in the spring of 2006. They had previously been house parents in Mississippi at Sunbelt Christian Home. It was known on the ranch that they had been having marriage difficulties but nothing was done about it from the administration end that I know of.

In the spring of 2006, Cade announced at a staff meeting that they were being called back to the Sunbelt home in Mississippi where he would be working in administration and Angie would be able to devote more time to raising their children. Cade and Angie had also had some issues with the Pinehaven administration and Cade believed that God was calling them elsewhere. The Pinehaven students were removed from their home, as was standard procedure, that they would be able to pack up their belongings. The children were spread out to other houses on the ranch where there were openings.

During one of the Wednesday evening services at the First Christian Church of St. Ignatius, all of the houses were gathered. Cade saw Angie putting a note in the pocket of the coat of David Stebens, a Senior at the Pinehaven Christian School. Cade took it out and read the note and immediately took Angie to the administration.

After hearing the story separately from both Angie and David the administrators were able to piece together the truth. The relationship was of a sexual nature and had begun close to the year before. There were times that David would stay home "sick" from school and Cade would be gone from the house. Angie gave David special privileges and there were many meetings. Some of the children in their house knew what was going on but were fearful to say anything to any staff.

When this information came out about the relationship, the director Andy Larsson, knew from previous experience that when a child is under the age of 16 they cannot be considered a "consenting adult". Because David was past that age there was no reporting to the Lake County Sheriff's office. I believe that he was also told this by the sheriff, Bill Barron (who consequently had a niece at PH).

Cade and Angie left Pinehaven immediately after this and have little contact with many people at/from Pinehaven. David was removed to the Cream House under the care of Gary and Susan Henderson. He graduated a few weeks later and left Pinehaven.

While I was the Administrative Assistant at Pinehaven I filed many of the documents surrounding this situation. The included but were not limited to information from Andy and Maxine, letters from Angie, David and the note which began the investigation.

This was not dealt with by the sheriff's department and all of Pinehaven staff was instructed to say nothing about the situation to anyone.

This information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Lynnette McClenahan
43363 Rd 140 N
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 398-5554
(10/21/10)

Affidavit of Jeremy Lamb

I, Jeremy Lamb, being sworn, declare and say:

1. The following facts are true of my own personal knowledge, and if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto.

2. I currently reside in Vigo County, in the state of Indiana and am currently 32 years old. I can be contacted by phone at 812-870-5492.

3. I was employed as a teacher at Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch ("Pinehaven"), located in St. Ignatius, Montana from July 2002 to May 2009.

4. Prior to, and throughout my employment at Pinehaven, I was not made aware of my legal obligations and requirements as a Montana State Mandated Reporter. I was never presented with, or required to sign an Agreement of any form, or notified of any internal policies regarding reporting occurrences or allegations of abuse.

5. On a date I am unable to recall in either 2004 or 2005, I was working after hours at Pinehaven Christian School ("School"), located on-site at Pinehaven. I was notified that a program participant named Austin Torgenrude had run away from the Oreo House and had been seen running down into a canyon on Pinehaven property, directly to the east of the school. Kaatje Camp (teacher), Lynette McClenahan (teacher) and I went outside the school to look and listen for Austin. After hearing yelling coming from the canyon, I quickly went down the hill to investigate. Upon arriving at the bottom of the canyon, I found another program participant, Zeth Poetker, holding Austin to the ground. I was the first Pinehaven staff member on the scene. Austin was resisting restraint from Zeth. I instructed Zeth to release Austin, to which Zeth complied. Upon release, Austin attempted to run away again, to which I responded by grabbing him and restraining him from behind in a bear hug. While I restrained Austin, he began screaming, "Let me go! My housedad told me to run away!" as he resisted my restraint. As I was larger in stature than Austin, I had no trouble in restraining him safely. The next Pinehaven staff member on the scene was Ned Kent (houseparent) who instructed me to release Austin. I complied with this instruction, at which time Ned grabbed Austin and held Austin upright by either choking or squeezing Austin around the head. From my position, to the side behind Austin, I observed what I believe to be Ned pressing his thumbs into Austin's temples. Austin began to scream in pain, and I could see fear in his eyes. After a short period of screaming, Ned released Austin, at which point he began to cry. Austin became compliant and, according to instruction, walked up the hill to the school parking lot where Kaatje and Lynnette were waiting. Austin remained with Ned and I went back to school.

6. Following my separation from Pinehaven, in an email dated March 25th, 2010, entitled "A couple comments", I informed Bob Larsson, Director of Pinehaven, of the events that took place in Section 5.

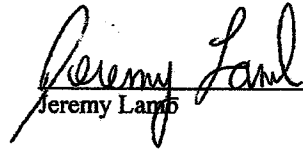
7. On a date I am unable to recall in 2007, I visited the Grey House. As was customary during these visits, I walked into the boy's wing of the house to visit with the male program participants residing in that house. I walked into the center room where I noticed a strong odor and a bucket sitting on the floor. I asked the boys why the odor was so strong and what the bucket was for. Brian Bell informed me that the bucket was in the room for the boys to urinate in at night. I was shocked by this and inquired why they were urinating in buckets in their rooms instead of using the restroom in the wing. I was told that they were not allowed by their housedad, and direct authority, Jon Kemery, to leave their rooms at night, and were required to use the bucket if they needed to urinate at night. At this point, I observed that the door to the bedroom had been equipped with a carriage bolt lock on the outside of the door, where if latched, the room's occupants would be unable to leave the room for any reason. After seeing this, I recalled hearing rumors that Pinehaven was having trouble problems with homosexual behaviors in the boy's wing at the Grey House and that they were locking certain boys in their rooms at night in order to

protect other boys. I had not, until this moment, had any reason to believe the rumors. The next time I saw Andy Larsson, Director of Pinehaven, I reported what I had seen. Andy replied by saying, "Is that still going on? I will talk to Maxine about it." Weeks later, I followed up Brian Bell and asked if they were still locked in their rooms and required to urinate in buckets, to which he confirmed that they were.

8) On a date I am unable to recall in 2007 or 2008, I was at the Grey House after school hours to help move a program participant named Keldon (Miller?) to his grandfather, who lived a couple hours away from Pinehaven. He was being removed from the program due to his extraordinary resistance to the rules and regulations of Pinehaven and was rumored to have acted violently against Pinehaven staff. I was first instructed to pack up Keldon's personal possessions prior to taking him to his grandfather. When I went into Keldon's room, I noticed that screws were installed in his window that prevented the window from being opened for any reason beyond a few inches, even before the point of alarm activation. Jon Kemery, the housedad at the Grey House, and Keldon's direct authority, had not arrived to assist me in packing Keldon's personal possessions, so I went to the living room to wait for him. Later on, while coming and going, I noticed Jon Kemery take a powered screwdriver into the room. He came back out of the room before I returned, but upon my return, I noticed that the screws had been removed from the windows. I finished bagging Keldon's possession, took them and Keldon to the car, and delivered him to his grandfather's custody.

Further, Affiant sayeth naught.

Dated this 17 Day of September, 2010


Jeremy Lamb

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this 17 Day of September, 2010, by Jeremy Lamb.

Signature

Print Name

Notary Public for the State of INDIANA

Residing at 124 MONROE BLVD TERRE HAUTE, IN

My Commission Expires NOV 29, 2015

Attachments: (1)

From: jeremylamb@hotmail.com
To: pinehaven@blackfoot.net; sti3081@blackfoot.net
CC: towininger@netzero.net; dmyers@thsb.com; rick.brewster@live.com
Subject: RE: A couple comments
Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2010 14:42:31 -0500

As Pinehaven leadership, we are asking you for details: persons (staff and/or kids), places, and times of the two incidents you wrote about.

I am not sure exactly which two you are referring, but I will make my best guess as to which two, and give details of those. It was not my intent to condemn any one for his or her actions, as I have, nor wish to have the authority to do so. My purpose was to point out that dismissal of such strong allegations as others have made with out serious investigation is dangerous no matter who makes them.

One of those times I started correcting the misunderstanding and the student stopped me because she said it would just make things worse for her at home.

I hesitate to share names associated with events because I do care for the people involved and do not wish to hurt them, but as I age I realize I need people to call me out when I am wrong or I will not recognize and repent from the sin in my life, and I must also be willing to confront the people in my life when he or she is erring no matter how uncomfortable doing so may make me. This incident happened between Esther and Amanda Thomas. I don't remember clearly all the details of what did happen, but something prompted me to tell Esther about some situation that had arisen. The discussion happened in the gym along the South wall just east of the chapel door. What ever it was that had happened that I needed to share with Esther (I cant remember) I do remember that after Esther started talking, things went in a direction that was completely different than what had actually happened. I said something like "Esther, I think you misunderstood what happened." Amanda then said quietly something like "Don't, it won't help. It will be worse at home." I then let Esther continue not really knowing how to take the situation. Esther often seemed to misunderstand situations like that. My fellow teachers discussed that at times it seemed she would even lie about different things. At times either the lie or misunderstanding put us as teachers in difficult situations. There was at least one occasion I spoke with Andy about Esther and her apparent lying, and he admitted recognition of her apparent history of lying.

I saw the fear in the child's eyes as he fought against Ned's grip.

This incident happened after Austin Torgenrude had run away from the Oreo house. I don't remember the date, but he had run away during the day, and the word got out very quickly. He had actually been caught and was being held by his house brother Zeth Poetker. Zeth had him on the ground and was holding him down. I was the first staff member to arrive and instructed Zeth to let Austin up. He did so, and Austin tried to run again. I grabbed him in a bear hug from behind planning on holding him until he calmed down and/or help arrived. Austin was yelling "let me go! Dad told me to run away! Let me Go!" I didn't have time to talk with him as I held him because Ned quickly arrived on the scene and told me to let him go. Then Ned grabbed him by the throat and told him to calm down. Austin only struggled for a few seconds until he calmed down in tears. I can't remember if I shared this event with anyone or who it would have been if I had, and I do feel bad that I did not report it, but Ned being a lead houseparent who routinely deals with the most difficult children, made me think that if Ned knows, then who else would I be supposed to tell.

Also, we take seriously your charge of a staff member lying. Please identify the parties involved and give any details you have.

I have shared a little of Esther's apparent lying, and I know that other current staff members have thoughts regarding that portion of her behavior. One event that happened more recently involved Dave Moe and one of his smaller boys. Aleck? I can't remember his name for sure. Dave pretended to get off of the phone with Aleck's mom and told Aleck that he was going home. He sent him to the boys wing to pack, and also marched him downstairs to tell the other boys good bye. I was at the Oreo house getting a hair cut. I did tell Kaatje about the event, and she said I should tell Andy, which I did. I believe Andy dealt with it, and I realized that I should have said something to Dave immediately rather than telling Andy or anyone else. I later apologized to Dave for not first speaking to him. At the time, we were instructed to funnel things like that to administration, and staff other than houseparents have always been told to not contradict or really even question what the houseparents do with their children, so I never did know of a clear approach that I was to take if I did see something that seemed out of line. In seven years of serving at Pinehaven, six years in the classroom, I never received a peer review, was observed in my classroom, or had any sort of performance review. I often longed for someone to honestly and critically evaluate what I was doing right and what I could do better. People often seemed to complain about something that had happened in my classroom, but seldom did even the complaint come directly to me. I don't know if similar experiences are true for other staff members, but I could see how a stressed out staff member who didn't know what else to do with a difficult child would try strange things in hopes to bring about a change in the child.

I hope that I have provided you with enough detail. Over the years, similar circumstances blur together, but I have shared the ones that stand out. I don't know what to do about what I have seen, other than share it. When Maplewood received David Krug's email, I realized that there may be instances other than what I had witnessed, so I began sharing with the leadership here at Maplewood what I had witnessed. I join with the other leadership here at Maplewood in prayer for Pinehaven. May God guide you all as you deal with such difficult situations.

Pressing on Toward the Goal
Jeremy A Lamb

From: pinehaven@blackfoot.net
To: jeremylamb@hotmail.com; sti3081@blackfoot.net
CC: tcwininger@netzero.net; DMyers@thsb.com; rick.brewster@live.com
Subject: Re: A couple comments
Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2010 08:41:55 -0800

Hi, Jeremy

As Pinehaven leadership, we are asking you for details: persons (staff and/or kids), places, and times of the two incidents you wrote about. Also, we take seriously your charge of a staff member lying. Please identify the parties involved and give any details you have.

Did you report any of this to administration at any time?

Bob Larsson and the Pine Haven Leadership team.

— Original Message —

From: Jeremy Lamb
To: Bob Larsson
Cc: Craig Wininger ; Dave Myers ; Rick Brewster
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 12:55 PM
Subject: A couple comments

Hi Bob. Craig mentioned that you were wondering who made the comment "Positive things do not refute the negative ones. Just because good things happen, it doesn't make the bad ones go away or mean they didn't happen or don't need addressing. An alcoholic father may be kind at times, but his alcoholism is still a problem."

I made that comment, and I think it a fair albeit disappointing comparison. Not all alcoholics are abusive, and those that are abusive are abusive in different ways, and most alcoholics feel horrible about what they did while intoxicated. In seven years at Pinehaven, I witnessed many things that raised red flags.

On many occasions I saw children receiving verbal assaults that reduced them to tears. At times it may have seemed necessary to provoke the desired response from a child, but many times the assault was continued and intensified until the desired outcome was reached. Many of those times I understood the purpose, but several times I witnessed that happening at the hands of houseparents who had misunderstood the situation.

One of those times I started correcting the misunderstanding and the student stopped me because she said it would just make things worse for her at home. Many times students would lie, admitting to something he didn't do so that the verbal lashing would stop. I saw houseparents lie to children in order to elicit an emotional response from a difficult child. I also witnessed physical abuse. I have seen children grabbed by the arm and drug around, children pressure pointed until they submit, and I have one memory that is burned into my mind when I witnessed a child being choked by a house parent with both hands until he calmed down. I saw the fear in the child's eyes as he fought against Ned's grip. I also have seen the fall out after a child was pushed down the stairs and ended up with a broken nose. I have also seen those same staff members exhibit kindness and compassion with even the same children.

So, I do think the comparison to an alcoholic is accurate. I understand that houseparents and staff are stressed and pushed, and that the children are pros at pushing buttons, but as teachers, counselors, parents, and ministers, there is no excuse for some of the behavior that I witnessed. There may be an explanation, but no explanation can excuse physical abuse of a child. Having witnessed what I have witnessed, I find nearly all of the comments I have read about the ranch believable even if very sad. I have heard multiple staff members make comments like "I don't like the person I have turned into while working at Pinehaven."

That is a sad statement that demonstrates that many of the staff members recognize that there are times that children are dealt with in unhealthy ways. I understand that in such a tense environment in which the house parents minister, stresses and pressures run high, but no explanation would comfort a hurting child or build confidence for a parent, and I believe that many of the complaints against the ranch have at least some merit, and I can understand why many of Pinehaven's former students have very mixed feelings about the place they went to for help.

I believe in the mission of Pinehaven, and I know that many children have been helped through Pinehaven, but I also have seen many short comings of the program; short comings that many past and present staff members have seen. I avoid sharing the wrongs I have seen with people in general, but I have shared my concerns with others who express similar concerns. As part of the leadership here at Maplewood, I must remain accountable to my brothers in leadership here, and I have at times needed to share with them burdens springing from my time serving the Lord at Pinehaven. I continue to receive phone calls and messages from current and former staff members and former students who express similar frustrations but don't know what to do or where to turn. It seems many have turned to David Krug, who may not have the best reputation, and therefore unclear motives, but because he has provided students with a venue for sharing their frustrations and concerns, more and more students will turn to him. Having witnessed some of what I have witnessed, I can not say that Pinehaven would be safe from government intervention if the government knew of some of the things I have witnessed. So the current tone of some of the web posts give me concern for Pinehaven. It is my continued prayer that the Lord will work in and through Pinehaven to change the lives of children, but I also pray that He will work in and through the lives of the staff members at Pinehaven. It seems the Refiners Fire is being turned up all over the country, and Pinehaven doesn't seem immune. I am excited to see what will result even if I don't enjoy the process.

—
Pressing On Toward the Goal
Jeremy A. Lamb

I, Tim Sabens, being sworn, declare and say:

1. The following facts are true of my own personal knowledge, and if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto.

2. I currently reside in Travis County, in the state of Texas, and I am currently 41 years old. I can be contacted by phone at 512-670-0295.

3. I was employed as a relief house parent at Pinchaven Christian Children's Ranch ("Pinchaven"), located in St. Ignatius, Montana from April 9th, 2009 to June 13th, 2010.

4. Prior to, and throughout my employment at Pinchaven, I was not made aware of my legal obligations and requirements as a Montana State Mandated Reporter. I was never presented with, or required to sign an Agreement of any form, or notified of any internal policies regarding reporting occurrences or allegations of abuse.

5. Throughout my employment at Pinchaven, I attended staff meetings as scheduled. On March 29, 2010, I was present at the staff meeting held in the chapel of Pinchaven Christian School, located on, and operated by Pinchaven. Also present at this meeting were the following staff members:

- a) Bob Larsson
- b) Carol Larsson
- c) Danny Larsson
- d) Ned Kent
- e) Maxine Kent
- f) Gary Henderson
- g) Susan Henderson
- h) Dave Moe
- i) Jeannie Moe
- j) TJ Revesz
- k) Kris Revesz
- l) John Robine
- m) Lisa Robine
- n) Rick Bondy
- o) Elvin Lamb

6. From March 2010 until my resignation, I was instructed by Bob Larsson to never read, write, contribute or communicate specifically with David Krug or any former resident or staff member in general, who was broadcasting criticism of Pinchaven through online messages, printed mail, and phone calls.

7. At the staff meeting held on March 29, 2010, Bob Larsson addressed all in attendance regarding the portion of the attached email from Jeremy Lamb, a former member of Pinchaven School's teaching staff, dated March 25th, 2010, which I had not received prior to the meeting. Bob Larsson asked all in attendance if "anybody had any contact with Jeremy Lamb." Following affirmation that no communication was taking place between those in attendance and Jeremy Lamb, Rick Bondy claimed hesitantly that he had spoken with Jeremy but only casually. Bob Larsson proceeded to read the following excerpts from the portion of attached email thread dated March 25th, 2010:

a) "Many times students would lie, admitting to something he didn't do so that the verbal lashing would stop. I saw houseparents lie to children in order to elicit an emotional response from a difficult child. I also witnessed physical abuse. I have seen children grabbed by the arm and drug around, children pressure pointed until they submit, and I have one memory that is burned into my mind when I witnessed a child being choked by a house parent with both hands until he calmed down. I saw the fear in the child's eyes as he fought against Ned's grip. I also have seen the fall out after a child was pushed down the stairs and ended up with a broken nose. I have also seen those same staff members exhibit kindness and compassion with even the same children."

Immediately following his recital of these excerpts, Bob Larsson addressed Ned Kent saying, "Ned, do you remember any of this?". Ned Kent immediately responded by answering, "I don't remember that ever happening." Rick Bondy, referring to multiple work related injuries, commented on the report of a child being pushed down the stairs, resulting in a broken nose saying, "Do you know how many kids have broken their nose here?" At that point, the staff meeting continued through its agenda, and the matter was not further discussed.

Within hours of the staff meeting on March 29th, 2010 we obtained the letter from Jeremy Lamb that we heard excerpts spoken by Bob Larsson at the meeting. It was through this correspondence that I came to possess the first portion of the email dated March 25th, 2010 attached to this Affidavit. On August 19th, 2010, I received the entire email thread dated March 30th, 2010 from a former resident of Pinchaven, who received it from Jeremy Lamb on June 23rd, 2010, which is attached to this Affidavit, including within, the email received by Bob Larsson on March 25th, 2010.

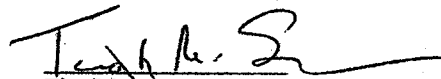
8. Following nearly a year of observing and working within the operational environment at Pinchaven, I made the decision to resign my position as a houseparent due to irreconcilable differences between myself and Bob Larsson. My multiple suggestions and pleas to reformat Pinchaven's institutional policies in a manner that did not encourage, facilitate, and sometimes require staff members to participate in, and inflict mental and emotional abuse upon residents.

9. Following my separation from Pinchaven I contacted Jeremy Lamb to obtain a clearer understanding of the allegations addressed at the March 29, 2010 staff meeting. It was through this correspondence that I came to possess the first portion of the email dated March 25th, 2010 attached to this Affidavit. On August 19th, 2010, I received the entire email thread dated March 30th, 2010 from a former resident of Pinchaven, who received it from Jeremy Lamb on June 23rd, 2010, which is attached to this Affidavit, including within, the email received by Bob Larsson on March 25th, 2010.

10. To the best of my knowledge, neither the account of physical abuse reported by Jeremy Lamb in the portion of the attached email dated March 25th, 2010, or the portion of the attached email received by Bob Larsson dated March 30th, 2010 was not reported to Montana CDI, Lake County Sheriff's Office, or any other appropriate enforcement or investigative agency.

Further, Affiant sayeth naught.

Dated this 26 Day of August, 2010


Tim Sabens

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this 26 Day of August, 2010, by Tim Sabens.

Signature 

Print Name Kimberly D. Fulton

Notary Public for the State of Texas

Residing at 3733 Gatti's School Rd Round Rock TX 78664

My Commission Expires 12/29/2013

Attachments: (1)

